financed by the Municipal Council with its increased resources under the new Municipal Regulation, was but an imperfect one, as it was calculated to serve only two wards of the town, the people of the other wards being left to depend upon brackish and filthy tanks. Further, there would be no water for 3½ months of the hottest part of the year when the Kodayar reservoir would be closed. The Member added that by carrying out such a defective scheme a more up-to-date and comprehensive scheme would be delayed long. He therefore advocated the need for an up-to-date scheme like the one at Trichinopoly and other cities, which would supply pure water for the whole town throughout the year. That, he said, was an urgent need. He suggested that Government might carry out the scheme for the Municipality. In asking for Government help in that important matter, he submitted that the Travancore Municipalities were much poorer than those in British India and that they struggled hard even to maintain themselves. No doubt, Government had undertaken the Trivandrum water supply scheme estimated to cost about Rs. 20 lakhs and it might be difficult to carry out both the schemes simultaneously. If that were so, the execution of the Nagercoil water supply scheme might be delayed till the Trivandrum water works were completed, but Government might in the meantime arrange for the preliminary investigation necessary for the purpose.

The Member's second request was in regard to the constitution of the Municipal council. He requested Government to allow his Council to elect its own non-official president and sanction thirteen elected councillors instead of eleven as recommended by the Council. He wanted thirteen because the town was divided into twelve wards, of which one, namely, Kottar, was almost double the size of each of the other wards in respect of population and number of houses. If that was not sanctioned, the number of elected councillors might be at least 12, one for each ward.

Dewan's reply.—Government appreciate the moderation of your requests. Government do realise the need of a water supply scheme in a town like Nagercoil, where, as you say, there is difficulty in getting good drinking water. You have also anticipated the Government's financial difficulty in this matter. Government are practically committed to a very large expenditure in regard to the Trivandrum water supply scheme, and it is difficult to hold out any special promise of pecuniary help in regard to your scheme. Government will, however, consider as favourably as possible your request to depute a Government officer for making a preliminary investigation of a really efficient water supply scheme for your town. As regards the constitution of the Council, I understand that orders have not yet been passed on the recommendations received from the Council. Government have been giving to Municipalities all that they wish to have by way of representation of the popular element. I am sure that your wishes will be carefully considered.

87. The keeping in abeyance of the introduction of the Municipal system in the town of Kottarakara.

Mr. Kanakku Thevan Raman (Member, Kottarakara Taluk) submitted that the area of the proposed Municipality was a little over 3 square miles, and that, though according to the last Census, it contained 1,058 houses, about 200 of them were not inhabited. If the number of houses the inhabitants of which were mere coolies and labourers leading a hand-to-mouth life were excluded, the number of other houses would be only about 500. If a Municipality were to be started as proposed, it would not be in a position to maintain itself because of the extreme poverty of the people. He, therefore, requested that the constitution of the town into a Municipality might be deferred till the resources of the people were satisfactorily developed, so that they might meet the expenses of the Municipality without much pressure on themselves. He also presented a memorial signed by some of the inhabitants of Kottarakara protesting against the formation of a Municipality in the town of Kottarakara.

Dewan's reply.—The question of converting Kottarakara into a Municipality has not yet been decided by Government. If the proposal is not acceptable to the people, objections may be raised when the preliminary notification is published.

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